

toward its former Soviet neighbors and the West.

Although there may be opportunities for the U.S. to re-engage with Russia under Medvedev, we must proceed with caution. Let us not forget that there are Iranian enrichment facilities in Russia, and that Russia uses its oil and gas resources to manipulate and control its sovereign neighbors.

These are the characteristics of an emerging dictatorship hiding beneath the mask of democracy.

TRIBUTE TO 2008 ATHENA AWARD  
RECIPIENTS

**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2008*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the 2008 Lenawee County ATHENA Award recipients Durstyn Farnan, O.P., and Dr. Nancy Kelly, DVM, and Parthenon Award recipient United Bank and Trust. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate these individuals and this company on behalf of all of those who have benefited from their demonstrated excellence in their professions and dedicated service to Lenawee County and the State of Michigan.

ATHENA International was founded in the early 1980s by Martha Mertz, who while serving as the sole woman on the board of directors of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, was inspired to recognize female business leaders in her community whom she felt had largely been overlooked. Thus, the first ATHENA Award was presented in 1982 and 5,000 more have been awarded since to honor men and women across the globe for their professional excellence, community service, and active role in enabling women to achieve success as business and community leaders.

Durstyn Farnan, better known as Sister Dusty, has devoted much of her life to promoting international peace. An advocate for women's liberties worldwide, Sister Dusty has traveled to countries around the globe assisting women in other cultures achieve independence and promote peace. Additionally, she has educated students at Siena Heights University on the serious subject of the trafficking of women and children.

Dr. Nancy Kelly has faithfully served Lenawee County as a successful veterinarian and trusted mentor for many years. She is the on-call veterinarian for the Adrian, Madison, and Fairfield Township Fire Departments and holds an impressive record of extensive community service in the area. In addition to assisting veterinary students secure highly beneficial externships, she selflessly devotes much of her time to mentoring several local female students of veterinary medicine.

United Bank and Trust has a history of producing successful businesswomen and stands as a fine model to companies throughout Lenawee County. As a company committed to providing training and development opportunities to all employees, United has a track record of promoting women to leadership positions. United Bank and Trust has earned respect as a hometown bank for their tailored

service to the Lenawee community and for encouraging each of their employees to volunteer within the community.

This year's ATHENA Award for Lenawee County was presented to Sister Dusty, Dr. Nancy Kelly, and United Bank and Trust for demonstrating excellence, creativity, and initiative in their profession and for actively assisting women in realizing their full leadership potential. The 2008 winners join an international network of men and women who work together to create leadership opportunities and encourage the empowerment of women leaders.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the recipients of the 2008 ATHENA Award for their invaluable service to the Lenawee community. May others know of my high regard for their commitment to promoting women around the world, as well as my best wishes for them in the future.

AMENDED SECURITY ASSISTANCE  
AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL  
REFORM ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day. When others talk about a dysfunctional Congress or claim that members of different political parties can't work together, they ought to look at this bill. Today, the House votes on the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 (H.R. 5196) that we debated on Tuesday. Subtitle A of Title I of H.R. 5196 has been in the making for the past 18 months when I first learned of the complaints from industry regarding the immense backlog of defense export license applications at the State Department. The Executive Branch, both sides of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, industry, and Non-Governmental Organizations, NGOs, interested in non-proliferation all had input into this legislation.

Last year, I joined with Representatives JOE CROWLEY of New York and EARL BLUMENAUER of Oregon to establish the Congressional Export Control Working Group. We educated Members of Congress and their staff on the importance of export control modernization efforts to both our national and economic security.

Export control modernization is extremely important to the constituents I am proud to represent in the 16th District of Illinois. This area of the country is one of the most heavily industrialized Congressional districts in the Nation. We make everything from nuts and bolts to the advanced electrical system for the new Boeing 787, the Dreamliner. Many of the products and technologies produced by the manufacturers I am so proud to represent are regulated under U.S. export control law.

When I was first elected to Congress almost 16 years ago, a manufacturer from northern Illinois came to me for assistance in navigating the regulatory process for selling their product overseas. Ever since that first experience, I have been dedicated to modernizing our Nation's export control system. I am continuing to work on policies that will enhance U.S. na-

tional security, strengthen our defense industrial base, and boost U.S. competitiveness.

One piece of that puzzle is being considered here today. The Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008—which I am proud to have co-sponsored—contains legislation (Subtitle A of Title I entitled the Defense Trade Controls Performance Improvement Act of 2008) I co-wrote along with my good friend and colleague from California, Representative BRAD SHERMAN who is the Chairman of the Terrorism, Non-proliferation, and Trade Subcommittee. This legislation will reduce defense trade license processing times, create a spare part waiver for our closest allies, and make licensing of defense items more transparent and predictable. These process improvements will make U.S. defense manufacturers in every category, including space, more competitive in the international marketplace. No longer will they have to fear being shut out of foreign markets or products because of a taint from the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, ITAR.

The bill will modernize the Federal Government's inefficient export control policy while strengthening national security and helping American companies sell more defense-related goods and services overseas to our allies.

H.R. 5196 requires the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, DDTC, at the State Department to hire more staff to reduce the backlog of license applications that impedes legitimate trade with our allies without compromising national security. The last time I checked, the State Department has only 42 licensing officers. By 2010, this legislation requires adequate staff and resources at the State Department to review and process defense trade licenses in a timely manner. This legislation creates a ratio of at least one DDTC officer for every 1,250 applications by 2010. The independent Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimated that this provision would require the hiring of 35 additional licensing officers.

H.R. 5196 also requires DDTC to assign no less than 3 individuals by fiscal year 2009 to review applications for commodity jurisdiction determinations. This is one area of export controls that is extremely complex and time consuming—determining whether or not a particular widget is a commercial dual-use item or a munition. Having specialized personnel dedicated to this task will be extremely helpful in improving the processing of these determinations. The legislation also increasing the transparency of commodity jurisdiction determinations with the publication of those decisions on the Internet. This will help companies know in advance whether or not their particular product would fall into a commercial or munitions category.

The legislation also creates a series of performance goals for DDTC: No longer than 60 days to process a defense trade license; 30 days to process a defense trade license for close allies; and 7 days to process a defense trade license from our close allies in support of combat operations or peacekeeping or humanitarian operations with U.S. Armed Forces. This in no way implies forcing a premature decision—these are simply goals to achieve that have already been vetted with the Executive Branch. All told, CBO scored these personnel enhancement as costing \$6 million in 2009 and \$31 million over the next 5 years,